

Saskatchewan Homemakers' Clubs



RETROSPECT
and
PROSPECT

THE SILVER CORD AND THE
GOLDEN CHAIN

Dedication

To

DR. WALTER C. MURRAY

M.A., LL.D., D.C.L., F.R.S.C.

President of the University of Saskatchewan
1908-1937

and

MRS. CHRISTINA MURRAY

B.A., LL.D.

*This little record is affectionately dedicated by the Homemakers'
Clubs of Saskatchewan in grateful acknowledgment of
more than twenty-five years of generous and con-
structive interest in the welfare of the
Homemakers' Clubs*





FOREWORD

TO HAVE withstood for more than a quarter of a century the strain and stress of unusual changing conditions, to have steadily increased in numerical strength as well as in community service and cultural activities, seems sufficient justification to the Homemakers' Clubs of Saskatchewan in presenting this brief story of achievement since their inauguration.

That this Province is rich in rural women who are second to none in ability, in energy, in loyalty, in service, has been proved time and again in records of club work. The silver cord that linked the first twenty-five years of the life of our Homemakers' Clubs was never loosed, and now it has entwined into its strands a finer golden chain uniting yet more closely in newer and more absorbing interests our progressive prairie women.

To work for Home and Country with the knowledge that women all over the world are following this same ideal, and to have the conviction that this combined effort of patriotic women cannot be made in vain must surely inspire us with courage as we move past our Silver Jubilee into the long trail of the golden years to follow. We know they will bring us joy and sorrow, success and failure, hope and disappointment, tranquillity and anxiety, every variety of experience. Shall we be prepared to face the future with courage in our hearts and faith in humanity? We women have a great work to do for home and country, for our Empire and the world. God grant us the heart and the strength to do it.

ELIZABETH GOW CAMERON

Queen Mary's Message

A MESSAGE came from H.R.H. Queen Mary of England to The Associated Countrywomen of the World in session at Washington, D.C., 1936, and was later delivered in person by Mrs. Alfred Watt, President of the A.C.W.W. to the Women's Institutes and similar Countrywomen's Associations of the British Dominions. It is with the gracious permission of H.R.H. Queen Mary that the Homemakers' Clubs of Saskatchewan, a unit of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada and of the A.C.W.W. are privileged to include this greeting in this booklet.

The Greeting

"I would like to take this opportunity of sending to one and all a word of greeting and congratulation on the good work they have done. I take a great interest in the movement, not only in Great Britain, but throughout the Empire.

"I am well aware how much the Institutes have already done towards improving conditions for women in rural areas; how they have made for better citizenship, happier homes, and good neighbourliness.

"I hope that this spirit of mutual help and goodwill will be extended to the countrywomen of all lands, for wherever countrywomen are organized they work for the great human causes along the paths of true progress.

"I would like to add that I am much interested in the Women's Institute at Sandringham, and I attend the afternoons as often as I can. It makes a nice meeting place for everybody.

"The Women's Institute movement should prove a fresh and valuable link between all parts and peoples of the Empire, and I hope ultimately between all parts of the world."

(Signed) "MARY R."



*Lady
Tweedsmuir
Sends
Greetings*

THE VERY practical and kindly interest shown by Her Excellency, The Lady Tweedsmuir, wife of our distinguished Governor-General, is revealed in the fol-

lowing letter to the Director of the Homemakers' Clubs:

"I am very glad indeed to send a message to the Homemakers' Clubs on the occasion of their Jubilee. I well know ~~what~~ good work they are doing. I believe in them as a cultural and educational force. Their mission seems to be this: to apply the principles of clear thinking to improving the conditions under which the rural people live; to promote every kind of cultural activity, like music, painting, sculpture, poetry; and by thinking out problems clearly and carefully, and by looking ahead and planning, to make life a better thing for everybody. I shall always be deeply interested in the work which the Homemakers' Clubs are doing, and shall hope to visit some of them when I am next in Saskatchewan."

(Signed) SUSAN TWEEDSMUIR.

March 15, 1938.

From the F.W.I.C. President

AS THE Homemakers' Clubs form one of the nine provincial units of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada it is a pleasure to include a greeting, dated June, 1936, from Mrs. A. E. Walker, Bartonville, Ontario, at that time President of the F.W.I.C.

"The Silver Jubilee of the Homemakers' Clubs reminds one of the silver lining which appears after the storm clouds have disappeared.

"During the past twenty-five years we have enjoyed many happy, sunshiny days in organizing and carrying out our Institute work. We have been apprehensive of passing storms, but each has served to emphasize the strength which we have gained through the unity and co-operation of our members from coast to coast.

"The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada is now recognized as the 'Parliament of Rural Women.' Our days of experiment have passed, each province has developed a programme of work suited to its own especial needs.

"During my term of office as President of the National organization, the Constitution has been revised and the spirit of unity and interdependence among the different provinces has been strengthened. There has been a growing appreciation of world wide demands of rural women. The challenge for personal responsibility has awakened echoes in many discouraged minds, developing timid observers into active and willing workers.

"Twenty-five years have fled on magic wings. Through the chaos of war and depression our women have marched steadily forward, each receiving courage from contacts with her Institute friends.

"We stand amazed at the fortitude of this great army of women, who face the future unflinchingly, strong in the knowledge of their ability and power to maintain a high standard for Home and Country."



Mrs. A. E. Walker

(Signed) MRS. A. E. WALKER
Bartonville, Ont.

Beginnings

TO DR. WALTER C. MURRAY, President of the University of Saskatchewan, more than to any other, is due the credit for establishing the Homemakers in our Province. The "Beginnings" of this enterprise are told in his own words:

"In the early reports of the University these statements appear:

"One of the most notable features of the year (1910-1911) was the progress made in Women's Work. Homemakers' Clubs were organized and a Convention was held in February at which fifty delegates were present. Miss Lillian Beynon has rendered signal service in this work.

"Again in three years their number has risen to 140 clubs, and their membership must be in the vicinity of 6000.

"In an intervening report appears the announcement of the appointment of Miss Abigail DeLury, a graduate of Macdonald College, to be Director of Women's Work.

"These colourless statements fail to revive the atmosphere of the beginnings of Women's Work in Saskatchewan.

"One of my earliest recollections was of a meeting in a cheerless shed in Regina where the question of an organization for Women's Work was discussed. Mr. W. J. Rutherford, who had come from Manitoba College to be Deputy Minister, and who was to become Dean of the College of Agriculture, was deeply interested; so were his successors, Mr. A. Frank Mantle, John Bracken, Extension worker, and his friend, Hedley Auld, who in time came to the University to be Professor of Field Husbandry and Director of Extension Work.

"The driving force of the movement, however, was Miss Lillian Beynon (now Mrs. Thomas, then known far and wide by her pen name, Lillian Laurie). Miss Cora Hind, whose interests covered the whole field of Agriculture, was also interested. So was Miss Mantle.

"At that time Votes for Women had become a great political issue here as elsewhere. Miss Beynon was intensely interested—more in advancing Women's Rights than in establishing a mere University organization.

"Well do I remember the Dean's anxiety lest the University become involved in party politics. There was no question that party politics had been the greatest curse of State Universities on this continent. Both political parties in Saskatchewan had publicly declared that there should be no political partisanship in the University, and the University authorities were equally anxious to avoid every appearance of the evil.

"This decision was responsible for the name, the motto, as well as the objectives of the Homemakers' Clubs.

"It is needless to add that the first Director, Miss DeLury, her successor, and their co-workers have built up a most beneficent organization, open to all and devoted to the highest interests of women, but-free from political partisanship.

"One of the happiest of the many good features of the movement has been the meeting each year in the University residences, where household cares may be forgotten for a few days and social activities enjoyed."

(Signed) WALTER C. MURRAY.

A Bit of History

TO PROFESSOR BERTHA OXNER of the University, Director of Women's Work, we are greatly indebted for a concise account of the origin, development, and subsequent provincial, national, and international federations of rural women's societies.

On the last day of January, 1911, a memorable group came together in Regina. These were the women delegates to the First Homemakers' Club Convention held in the Province of Saskatchewan. Strictly speaking, they came as representatives of a number of isolated women's clubs and went home as members of a provincial organization.

In the weeks preceding this convention, a series of meetings had been held at a number of points on the Canadian Pacific Railway main line east of Regina. These meetings had been arranged by Mr. F. Hedley Auld, at that time Director of Extension Work at the University of Saskatchewan and the agricultural societies at the different points. The special speaker at these gatherings was Miss Lillian Beynon (then well-known by her pen-name of "Lillian Laurie" and now Mrs. A. V. Thomas of Winnipeg). Miss Beynon had had previous experience with The Women's Institutes of Ontario and the new groups organized under her direction were modelled after those of the older province.

Miss Beynon was present at the convention, where she acted on the committee that drafted the constitution and also gave a stimulating address entitled, "Women's Clubs: Their Nature and Purpose." Mrs. Lorne Elliott of Winnipeg and Miss Mary D. Mantle, both of whom were familiar with Institute Work, gave helpful addresses; Mrs. Elliott's being, "Experiences with Women's Institutes in Ontario," and Miss Mantle's, "The Delegate's Duty After the Convention."

Other speakers at the convention were: Mrs. Nellie McClung on "The Importance of Social Life in Country Homes"; Miss E. Cora Hind on "A Model Kitchen"; Mr. Norman M. Ross, of Indian Head Forestry Farm, on "Growing Strawberries in Saskatchewan"; Mrs. W. R. Motherwell on "Domestic Bookkeeping", Hon. W. R. Motherwell (then provincial Minister of Agriculture) on "Domestic Science Training for Saskatchewan Women". In addition to these, addresses on "Care and Propagation of House Plants", "Fattening and Marketing of Poultry", "Our Domestic Water Supply" and "Home Nursing" contributed to a varied programme and gave the delegates a store of information to be used in their homes and in their clubs as well.

Forty-two delegates representing eighteen centres in the province were registered at this first convention. A study of the list reveals that twenty-four years later Homemakers' Clubs are still operating in at least eleven of the original places and that while

some of the pioneer names would be unfamiliar to the club members of 1935, the original list included names of women who are still active and enthusiastic club members.

One item of business at this historic gathering was the selection of a name and a statement of the objectives of the organization. "Homemakers" was the name chosen at that time and the one still in use; and "the promotion of the interests of the home and community", the objective stated at that time, is still the goal of Homemakers.

Even earlier than 1910, groups of rural and small town women had felt the need of some organization that would draw them together socially and give them opportunities to discuss questions of mutual interest. Among these early groups were the Prosperity Homekeepers' Society in the Rocanville district, organized in 1907, and the Open Door Circle of Mair organized in 1909. After the organization of the Homemakers' Clubs of the province, these pioneer societies decided to change their names and affiliate with the larger group to which they still belong.

While matters were progressing thus in Saskatchewan a similar movement was afoot in Manitoba. In 1910, organizations modelled after the Women's Institutes of Ontario, were formed at Valley River, near Dauphin, and at Morris. In a story of the Women's Institutes of Manitoba written by Mrs. H. M. Speechley of Winnipeg we read that Miss A. Juniper and Miss M. Kennedy of the Manitoba Agricultural College had a six-weeks' series of meetings throughout the province, beginning at Morrison, November 3, 1910. They spoke at 23 towns and were successful in forming local associations at 17 of these.

The first convention of the Manitoba groups was held at the Agricultural College in Winnipeg, February 14 and 15, 1911, just two weeks after the Saskatchewan Homemakers' first annual convention. The early name of the Manitoba organizations was "Home Economics Societies". In 1919 it was decided to adopt the name "Women's Institutes". Reference has already been made to the fact that both Manitoba and Saskatchewan had received inspiration for their work from Ontario. It may, therefore, be profitable to take a few minutes to consider the beginnings in that province.

The originator of the movement was Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless of Hamilton. For some years the Ontario Department of Agriculture had encouraged the formation of Farmers' Institutes throughout the province and had sent lecturers to the meetings of the Institutes so that farmers might learn the best methods of crop and stock production. Mrs. Hoodless' contention was that women needed education for the duties of home life and that for rural women especially regular opportunities of meeting one another socially would do much to break down the loneliness and isolation of their

lives. Accordingly she addressed many meetings advocating this and placed the scheme before the government of the province. As the result of one of her addresses at Stoney Creek, the first Women's Institute came into being in February, 1897, with a membership of 110 women and girls.

One characteristic of all Women's Institutes has been that they recognize no dividing lines of creed or politics. Hence, all women in the community find one organization in which all may work together.

By 1919, those non-partisan and non-sectarian societies working "For Home and Country" were so well established in all the provinces of Canada that an interprovincial conference was called at Winnipeg and the decision made to organize The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada. This federation was to hold biennial conventions, meeting in Eastern Canada and Western Canada alternately, at the same time as the provincial convention of the entertaining province. The expenses were to be met by contributions from all the affiliated provinces.

The first National President was Judge Emily Murphy, or "Janey Canuck", of Edmonton. She held office from 1919 to 1921. Saskatchewan was honoured by having Mrs. W. F. Cameron, then of Davidson, now of Regina, a charter member of the F.W.I.C., elected to be Recording Secretary, from 1919 to 1922, and finally after serving in various offices, chosen to hold the position of Federation President from 1929 to 1933.

Mrs. A. J. Chambers of Shellbrook, a director for Saskatchewan for two years, became Treasurer in 1925, and passed in 1929 from that office to be Corresponding Secretary until 1933.

But the magic circle was destined to enlarge in ever wider waves. Mrs. Alfred Watt, who had been an outstanding worker in the Women's Institutes of British Columbia, went to live in England in 1913. She felt that Women's Institutes would do much to brighten the lives of the village and countrywomen of the old land, but it was not until the stirring and strenuous times of the Great War that she was able to bring others to her point of view. In September, 1915, in North Wales, the first Women's Institute of Great Britain was organized. Soon others followed, the idea spread to England, and in 1917 the Scottish Women's Rural Institutes were started. Now, the Institutes of England and Scotland are numbered by thousands.

During the war years their energies were concentrated on food production campaigns. Since then they have developed along many other lines including handicrafts, drama, music and folk-dancing.

In other countries, too, similar movements had been in progress. As early as 1889, the Housewives' Association of Norway

had been founded. German Housewives had organized in 1898. In 1920, the first Women's Institute of South Africa was established, and 1922 saw the beginnings of the Countrywomen's Associations of Australia.

To Lady Aberdeen, at one time wife of Canada's Governor-General, we are indebted for the first step towards drawing all these different national groups together. Representatives of rural women's organizations in all countries were invited to meet with the Executive of the International Council of Women in London, England, April 30 to May 3, 1929. At that meeting 23 different countries were represented. A committee was appointed to get in touch with various rural women's organizations and to invite them to send delegates to the Conference of the International Council of Women at Vienna in 1930.

When the conference met in Vienna in 1930, representatives of 34 rural women's organizations from 28 countries were present. They instructed their committee, whose headquarters were in London, to issue a monthly leaflet, "Links of Friendship," to be mailed to all contributing societies. Members from other countries' organizations visiting London were invited to meet one another and in other ways an endeavour was made to establish better mutual understanding. Three interesting volumes, bearing the general name, "What the Countrywomen of the World are Doing," were published. Volume I tells the story of the London Conference, Volume II of the Vienna Conference, and Volume III was compiled of articles sent in by rural women's organizations from all parts of the world.

When the International Council of Women held their conference in Stockholm, Sweden, in the summer of 1933, the rural women were again represented and a further step in organization was effected. The name selected for the new organization was "The Associated Countrywomen of the World". The stated objects are:

- 1.—To promote and maintain friendly and helpful relations between the countrywomen's and homemakers' associations of all nations, and to give any possible help in their development.

- 2.—To further the common interests of those organizations, in the economic, social and cultural spheres, while avoiding political and sectarian questions of a controversial nature.

- 3.—To encourage the formation of organizations working for such common interests in countries where this need has not already been met.

The earlier leaflet has been replaced by an attractive monthly magazine entitled "The Countrywoman".

From our affiliation with "The Associated Countrywomen of the World" and with the Federated Women's Institutes of Can-

ada, we have become a part of a world wide movement which has been described by one writer as "a record of service to the community and of goodwill to other nations".

Two major events of the first twenty-five years of the Club History must now be recorded. In 1929 the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada and the Homemakers' Clubs of Saskatchewan held a joint convention at the University of Saskatchewan. It was at this convention that Saskatchewan women became acquainted with outstanding workers from other provinces. Mrs. Ducie's recollections of the gathering are most significant.

THE SASKATCHEWAN HOMEMAKERS AND THE FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA

"I have attended some of the Ontario W. I. meetings and they are very much like our own." So wrote a Saskatchewan friend, unconsciously voicing that essential unity and oneness of aim which characterize Women's Institutes throughout Canada. It was the realization of this unity, and of the value of its cumulative effect, which led in earlier years to its Federation.

Thinking back to 1929 in retrospect the years seem to have been dynamic, fraught with a sense of power and expectancy—1929 was a noteworthy year. In 1929 the Board of the F.W.I.C. met in Convention with the Saskatchewan Homemakers at the University. What a pleasant, gay gathering it was! A little more festive than usual, of course, and it was at this Biennial that Mrs. Cameron of Davidson became President of the F.W.I.C. She was, of course, intimately acquainted with the work of the F.W.I.C. Later in the day, as we stood together watching departing delegates from an upstairs window, I told Mrs. Cameron of the great satisfaction it was to Saskatchewan Homemakers to know that the chief executive of the F.W.I.C. was their one-time President and esteemed fellow member. Mrs. Cameron amply justified this confidence and esteem by the gracious, dignified and competent manner in which she discharged her duties.

Other members strengthened our bonds with the Federation. Mrs. McAuslan brought back most delightful reports of meetings at Charlottetown and Toronto which she gave us in her own humorous way, a way we shall not easily forget, and Mrs. Telford acted as F.W.I.C. convener of Legislation. All who know Mrs. Telford know her convenership was marked by efficiency.

Ten years have passed since that eventful year of 1929. Their passing has broadened the outlook, widened the perceptions of the F.W.I.C. and the constituent unity. Through the years, however, remains the ideal of service voiced well, I think, by Tolstoi, when he said "Life is a place of service, and in that service one has to suffer a great deal that is hard to bear," but more often to experience a great deal of joy. But that joy can be real only if people look upon

their life as a service, and have a definite object in life outside themselves and their personal happiness."

E. DUCIE,
Dundurn, Sask.

* * *

In 1930, clubs throughout the province bade a regretful farewell to Miss Abbie DeLury, who had guided the clubs for 17 years. Although her departure left a great gap, the inspiration of her work continues.

The year 1936 was a memorable one in club annals. This was the year in which the provincial organization attained full financial stature. Unlike the organizations in some of the other provinces, Saskatchewan Homemakers' Clubs had never received any direct money grants. The University had helped to pay expenses of delegates and speakers to the annual provincial convention. During the continued depression period, the assistance from the University gradually decreased, until now all the convention expenses and many other expenditures for the promotion of club work are paid from The Homemakers' Club Fund. The Advisory Council recommended the acceptance of these obligations in order that more funds might be available for extension work among rural young women and girls.

Anniversary Greetings

AT THE Silver Jubilee Convention held at the University in June, 1936, special messages were received from old friends who were active in launching our organization. We would remember in affectionate tribute the close friendship of the late Dean Rutherford of the Faculty of Agriculture, who assisted our progress in every way, and who would have rejoiced with us at this special time of happy reminiscence. Dr. Hedley Auld, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, has been intimately associated with the whole course of our history, and now rounds off the quarter century with a friendly word.

"Twenty-five years seems such a short time in retrospect that it is hard to realize that in that time the Homemakers' Club movement in Saskatchewan has grown to its present splendid proportions. At its beginning the Homemakers' Club programme had the endorsement and support of a small group of splendid women who realized its need and imagined its possibilities. Some of them are contributors to this booklet; others have passed to the Great Beyond. Their support, together with the leadership and direction given in the early years by Miss Abbie DeLury, and later by Miss Bertha G. Oxner, has been invaluable; but without the splendid response from the women of Saskatchewan the movement could not have attained such great success. The pioneer women of Saskatchewan have made a wonderful contribution to the development of this new country, and the Homemakers' Clubs are but one expression of that contribution, and it is my hope and my belief that succeeding generations of Saskatchewan women will inherit their great gifts and carry this splendid institution of the Homemakers' Clubs to even greater achievements."

(Signed) HEDLEY AULD.

* * *

MRS. W. R. MOTHERWELL, popular alike in Regina and in Ottawa, saw the beginnings of women's work on the prairies, and recalls her impressions:

"Pioneer life, especially for women, is seldom a bed of roses. Even as recently as 1911 conveniences and aids to labour in rural homes were often relatively primitive.

"There was no adequate channel through which women could enlarge their field of usefulness; nor was there any direct source through which they could conveniently secure data on problems which are constantly arising in that large and important field of endeavour—The Home.

"Our University, through the inspired leadership of W. J. Rutherford, first Dean of the Agricultural College, quickly recog-

nized the need, and in co-operation with his willing staff, soon had the Saskatchewan Homemakers' Organization established.

"Through the local clubs was provided an 'intake and output' for self-expression, receiving and giving helpful information, good fellowship and cheer.

"Thus was a Saskatchewan sisterhood established, worthy of its founders and the women of the prairies."

(Signed) CATHERINE J. MOTHERWELL.

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MRS. LILLIAN BEYNON THOMAS, previously referred to as most active in organizing our earliest clubs, and always noted for her literary work, becomes reminiscent about Saskatchewan women of the past generation:

"Dreams and reality walked hand in hand as the women of Saskatchewan faced biting winds and flurries of snow on their way to the first Homemakers' Convention in Regina, in 1911. Dreams overshadowed reality because the West was still young and romance filled the air.



Mrs. Lillian Beynon Thomas

"Clothes at that Convention represented the fashions for ten or fifteen years before, as many women wore what they brought from the east, or from the old country when they came out as pioneer settlers. Some drove oxen to the station where they got the train for Regina. Money was scarce, terribly scarce, but every woman there was wealthy. Her wealth consisted of dreams and when was money ever worth the pale shadow of a dream?

"To outsiders we no doubt looked a very ordinary group of women, but we knew we were not ordinary. As we listened to lectures, we knew we were building a nation. We knew the future would depend on our foundations. If they were weak, the purpose of every woman there, the purpose to make a better world for her children and others, would fail.

Many of the women who attended that convention have passed on, but as I write these words I wonder if they are not looking down, knowing the testing time has come. Our Homemakers built character that has stood strong and fine during terrible years, character that we believe will lead the way to the realization of the finest dreams we had at the first Homemakers' Convention in 1911."

(Signed) LILLIAN BEYNON THOMAS.

* * *

MRS. MARY S. MANTLE NAPIER, a true Scot, turns a philosophical eye on the past, and an imaginative glance into the future:

"One of the advantages of growing older is that you have the opportunity to hear the middle or the ending of many stories of which you knew the beginning. And the story of the Saskatchewan Homemakers' Clubs over twenty-five years has been well worth while following.

"Some ideals are unmapped regions," so I read recently, 'to which nobody has the least intention of building roads.' This has not been true of the Homemakers' Clubs. Looking back across the years to their start, to the first Convention in 1911, and to those at the University and throughout the country who laid the foundations, one can still feel the thrill and the

enthusiasm with which the project got under way. The clubs were started with ideals, and the passing of the years has shown how good have been the roads built towards these ideals. May the road-building continue, and this retrospective pause at their Silver Anniversary prove an incentive to yet greater achievement.

(Signed) MARY S. MANTLE NAPIER.



Mrs. Mary S. Mantle Napier

FROM E. CORA HIND, LL.D., the doyenne of Canadian women agriculturists, who can always say the last word on field crops, livestock, and international farming conditions, we have a picture of the one Homemakers' meeting at which we were privileged to hear her speak:

"It is good news that the Homemakers' Clubs of Saskatchewan are to have a booklet commemorating twenty-five years of successful work. Clubs which did so much to brighten the lives of farm women in the days before telephones, radios, and motor cars drew farm communities closer together, and during the last distressful years have helped to hold the courage of farm women so high that 'all the world has wondered.'



Miss Cora E. Hind, LL.D.

"The first meeting in Regina is a very vivid memory, and the only one in which I actually took part. Strictly speaking, I had no business to be there. As an agricultural and livestock editor I should have been attending the men's meeting in another hall. However, Dr. Hedley Auld was, as he has always been, a friend and helper to the farm women. By chance he heard me mention kitchen conveniences and asked me to speak on that subject. I spoke about a mechanical dishwasher, one that was cheap, simple of operation, and economical of water. Unfortunately the firm had no agent in Regina, so all I could do was to describe it. The sole comment I carried away was: 'No machine could wash dishes clean enough for me'. The big dishpan heaped with the handy doo-dads from Woolworth's met a warmer reception, and I think a good many women sent for them.

"This was a good meeting. Unfortunately it was the only session I was able to attend:

"My business of attending fairs, inspecting crops, etc., has taken me hither, thither and yon. In the course of the years I have heard much praise of the good work of Homemakers' Clubs. From the bottom of my heart I tender my respectful admiration for the courage and fortitude of the farm women of Western Canada and for the Homemakers' Clubs through which they have helped to 'keep the home fires burning' down the long and trying years."

(Signed) E. CORA HIND.

MISS ABBIE DELURY, first Director of Women's Work in the University, was the prime mover in all the early enterprises of the Homemakers' Clubs. The mention of her name brings back many a memory of her love of nature, her bird lore, her championship of the poor, her unfailing kindness, and her very

words of greeting recall her vivid personality that endeared her so much to all Homemakers.

"It is to me a great joy and honour to have a place in your anniversary book.

"Separated as I have been, both in time and distance, from the work of the Homemakers' Clubs, I can, perhaps, estimate the value and significance of that work more competently than when intimately connected with it.

"Three qualities of that work stand out clearly to me: (1) Effort based on what seemed to be vital needs—a getting at the heart of things as they were—not a blind following in beaten tracks; (2) an



Miss Abbie DeLury

adherence to the 'open mind'—the great path to true progress—which manifested itself as a general characteristic of the rural women of Saskatchewan; (3) a hopefulness and energy which remained undaunted under the most trying and depressing circumstances—circumstances which have so often repeated themselves in the history of the Province.

"From their attitude of mind, efforts, and achievements, one might have judged that the Homemakers' Clubs had taken for their motto the following lines:

*Be like the bird
That, pausing in her flight
Awhile, on boughs too slight,
Feels them give way beneath her, and yet sings,
Knowing that she hath wings.*

"My heart still remains with you, the women of the Saskatchewan Homemakers' Clubs, as no other.

"May you long continue in the spirit that is yours, with the highest success attending your efforts.

(Signed) ABBIE DELCRY.

* * *

TO the Women of Saskatchewan Mrs. Nellie L. McClung writes a characteristic and cheering message:

"It is natural for us to stand up beside the door-jamb every little while, and see how we are growing, and that brings us to face the fact that the years are taking toll of us. But though the mirror may give back a disquieting report, it cannot tell the whole story.

"Have we learned tolerance and understanding? Have we learned to work with people? Above all, have we learned that we can rise above our physical circumstances, and bring order out of chaos, and turn defeat into victory? If we have, we are growing, and growth is the greatest fact of life.



Mrs. Nellie L. McClung

"Mental growth keeps the spirit young and the temper sweet, and enables us to meet the future unafraid. The Kingdom of Heaven is within us."

(Signed) NELLIE L. MCCLUNG.

Presidential Greetings

IT WAS several years before the Homemakers' Clubs of Saskatchewan decided to elect officers, mainly to act at the Annual Convention, and occasionally to be ready to address meetings or act in an advisory capacity. The honour of being the first elected President fell to one who is now arranging the compilation of this little booklet, Mrs. W. F. Cameron, then of Davidson, whose term of office covered the years 1918-1923, with a vacancy from 1920-1921.

It has afforded much pleasure to all our Past Presidents to send a message to express their pride in the organization on the occasion of gathering up the threads of club history in this book. "Paul planted and Apollos watered" still remains the rule, and the active work of all provincial officers during the past twenty years or more has certainly been a fine example in follow-up extension based on the foundation laid in an earlier decade. To be known in Saskatchewan as a prominent Homemaker is an open sesame into any provincial council. Women distinguished for community service in practically every type of welfare and educational work, are always to be found in rural districts equally bound up in the H.M.C., as our organization is now familiarly styled.

Each presidential message has its own point of view, and each is an expression of loving pride in the H.M.C.

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From ELIZABETH GOW CAMERON, Regina

Provincial President, 1918 to 1920 and 1921 to 1923

THE Homemakers' Clubs of Saskatchewan, in close association through their Director with the Extension Department of the University, furnish an outstanding illustration of the great difference between the traditional academic colleges of the older countries, and this modern western University which is a centre of preparation for living in Western Canada.

The general trend of Homemakers' Club activities is well known. This Saskatchewan organization originated in 1911, the banner year of immigration and booming enterprise. Passing through the period of the Great War, with its extensive patriotic work, its succession of amazing wheat



Mrs. Elizabeth Gow Cameron

crops sold at peak prices, with consequent rapid improvement in farm conditions, the clubs gained ground by leaps and bounds, the members finding many opportunities for social and cultural progress. One decade later, the great drought followed, bringing for many years untold misery in crop failure, dust-storm, grasshopper infestation, and dilapidated homes, a series of calamities not even yet at an end. Through this grilling experience, the Saskatchewan Homemakers' Club has really come into its own, emerging after those years of frustration as an established beneficent factor in the life of the prairie.

Under the direction of Miss Bertha Oxner of the University, the club members have come to recognize their own powers. Crops and money and what it can buy are not all of life. To every woman belong certain God-given qualities of heart and mind and hand, qualities inalienable, inherent, and abiding, beyond the touch of poverty or wealth. The power of right thinking, of sound judgment, of fair criticism, those inborn gifts that find expression in fine writing, in lovely verse, in song, in all music, in the drama, the hand that can create a work of art—these are all alike indestructible, and all are revealed among our Homemakers, acquired without money and without price, gifts and talents that enhance the value of life and of personality.

A love of good literature has been fostered through the numerous libraries that came to us by the kindness of Lady Tweedsmuir, who also enlisted the support of Queen Mary and other friends. Frequently a more intensive club study of literature, of laws, of child welfare and kindred subjects, along with training in handicrafts and fine arts, has supplied a distinct type of adult education, making our women thoughtful, resourceful, and more able to face the vicissitudes of prairie life.

Now that we have attained our Silver Jubilee, it would be a mark of our new dignity were we to recruit our ranks by cordially urging the vast numbers of younger rural women to join us, assuring them that they have much to contribute to our community life, and that with their "infinite variety" they will help all women to realize the fine ideals of all true Homemakers "For Home and Country".

From Mrs. MAUD McAUSLAN; Adanac
Provincial President, 1923-1926.

NATIONS take an inventory from time to time of possessions, achievements and possibilities. This to us seems wise; so why should our Homemakers not do the same?

It is almost impossible to measure in terms of human welfare and added happiness to the people of our province, the work accomplished by our clubs during the past twenty-five years.

I believe to be truly great our organization must at times stop and "look". Look *backward*, to gain help and inspiration from the achievements of the past; to profit by the mistakes so that they may serve as a guide in laying foundations for future work; to remember the kind deeds, the loyal friendships and the friendly smiles along the way.

Look *around*, to obtain a clear vision of future work to be done, problems to be solved, knowledge to be gained, resources to be utilized and responsibilities to be assumed.

Look *forward*, for our organization stands for the best that can be conceived in the minds of the best women of our land, and it is for us as members to look ahead, with faith in ourselves and our undertakings go forward toward the achievement of greater things for the upbuilding of "Home and Country". Look forward that we may so educate, organize and inspire, that in the coming years, as Canada calls her women to even greater responsibilities, we may be prepared mentally, morally and physically to do the work intrusted to us.



Mrs. Maud McAuslan

*To labor with zest, and give of our best
For the sweetness and joy of the giving.
To help folks along with a hand and a song.
Why, that's the real sunshine of living.*

From Mrs. E. DUCIE, Dundurn

Provincial President, 1926-1929

*I shall not cease from mental strife,
Nor shall the sword fall from my hand,
Till we have built Jerusalem
In England, green and pleasant land.*

CONSCIOUSLY or unconsciously, our Homemakers have been striving toward this end. And there is no slacking up on their part today. The interest which clubs are taking in Dramatic and Musical Festivals and in the Adult Education movement, is but a broadening out from Club activities. And this is as it should be.

We have over 380 clubs today. The members of these clubs, animated with a sense of duty to their communities and aware of their responsibilities as citizens, have opportunities for untold influence. The simple, earnest utterance, direct and sincere, never falls on entirely stony ground. And remember that



Mrs. E. Ducie

*Live and let live was the call of the old
The call of the world, when the world was cold.*

But

*Live and help live is the cry of the new
The cry of the world with the dream showing through.*

Dear fellow members of our Saskatchewan Homemakers' Clubs, let us be conscious of our high calling.

From Mrs. PEARL STOLTZ, Eureka Farm, Nokomis

Provincial President, 1929-1930



Mrs. Pearl Stoltz

I HAVE pleasure in contributing to our Jubilee Book, and I wish to commend our Director, Professor Bertha Oxner, and all her co-workers on the program they have outlined to cope with the economic conditions of the present time. Particularly do I commend the work designed to meet the needs of our girls and young women of the Province.

I also wish to express my deep admiration for the women all over our Province who are so courageously carrying on under the most difficult situations we have known, owing to the continued serious drouth. They are exhibiting the same fortitude and resourcefulness in combating the insidious foes that threaten our homes during the present times, as did our forbears in

warding off the primitive foes of pioneer days.

○ All honour to you and may your reward be gratifying.

From Mrs. GERTRUDE S. TELFORD, *Pelly*

Provincial President, 1930-1934

HOW wonderful a thing it is that we are bound together in the great enterprise of lifting the load of inertia, fatigue, misunderstanding, selfishness, indifference and all the countless other characteristics that spoil home or community.

Yet we fail to take our work seriously enough. It is so easy to blame the other fellow for whatever goes wrong. If our community is strife-ridden, the fault lies elsewhere, never in ourselves. If moral and cultural standards are low, the fault is in our neighbours. If economic conditions press unmercifully, we grumble, but how many of us seriously look into the question of our country's problems. We are inclined to neglect the patience and endurance necessary to intelligently unravel the tangled skein of life.

So I wish that we might turn the X-ray of reality upon our innermost thoughts and motives, and upon the activities that spring therefrom. Are we worthily managing the centre of our interests—that close intimate circle of home-life—or are we allowing care in those material, comforting touches to



Mrs. Gertrude S. Telford

be lost in the anxiety of these hard days? Our husbands never before have needed so much the courage and good management that we can put into the home, never before have they so needed the cheerful companionship that we are capable of giving. After all's said and done, as homes are organized today, the husband is, in the vast majority of cases, bearing the burden of providing for the material needs of the family. I take off my hat to the men who are struggling against overwhelming odds to provide the wherewithal for a decent standard of living.

But if we allow our interest to go no further than the actual "home" we occupy, we will be poor Homemakers indeed. Every influence that touches the life of that home either for good or for evil is ours to support or to resist. Social affairs, school, church, political activities, economic conditions, these and a hundred and one other interests must be made a vital part of our thought life and must feel the impact of our attitude. In this way and in this way only can we be true Homemakers.

Yours in the great work of Homemaking.

From Mrs. ISABEL CURRIE, Govan.

Provincial President, 1934-1937

IT IS but forty years since a small group of rural women organized the first Women's Institute for the betterment of Home and Country. That first group little thought that in less than a decade the movement would not only sweep Canada but would encircle the globe and today be accredited by foremost minds as the greatest current force in revolutionizing rural life.

For twenty-five years our Saskatchewan Homemakers' Clubs have had a share in this movement, and at this interesting period in our development, we might well look back in appraisal of what has been accomplished, take stock of the present and plan and hope for the future.

The rapid growth in numbers, in breadth of vision and in scope of work is the best proof of the worthwhileness of the organization. The original idea with its clear and strong emphasis on education has been well carried out by courageous pioneers who firmly established plans for better homebuilding, neighborliness, better citizenship, community enterprise.

More potent perhaps than all the tangible things achieved is the spirit of the movement—the human element. Today the status of the rural woman is far different from that of a quarter century ago. Her homemaking successes, her community responsibilities, her social and leadership qualities, her economic position are all beginning to be appreciated more widely. The Homemaker in the country has a new dignity achieved by her own organized efforts through sensible and quietly executed services as opportunity permitted.

Here, then, is the challenge for the future. New prestige brings new and wider opportunities and greater responsibilities. There are still problems to be solved—disease, social ills, ignorance. Wise use of leisure should be encouraged, libraries established, girls' clubs assisted, community projects sponsored. Our objective as Homemakers should be to break our own records and outstrip our yesterdays by our tomorrows, an objective made possible only by the co-operative effort of each individual member.



Mrs. Isabel Currie

*To give, not to get.
To serve, not to be served,
Is the Glory of Life.*

Gleanings from the 1936 Convention

THE Convention at the University, Saskatoon, in June, 1936, was one to be remembered, with fine speakers from far and near, and excellent committee reports. Mere highlights of all these interesting addresses and papers can be reproduced here, but one can read much between the lines that reveals the nearness of Homemakers to their allied sisters.

Excerpts from reports of our H.M.C. committees may be dealt with first.

Agriculture.

Mrs. Harry Ducie, Dundurn, is a born agriculturist, or perhaps she has become one by design. In any case she lifts her subject high above the common earth, and reaches out among the clouds. A few quotations will bear out this statement.

"For many of us the labour of the past years is now repaid in the stately and beautiful plantations of trees which dot our prairies. Refreshingly green from the recent showers, they resound with varied and joyous song from thousands of small throats. From year to year trees bring increasing dividends in this regard. Birds, trees and flowers, and we have a prairie blossoming as the rose. And no doubt in due season, poets will arise to sing their praises."

Mrs. Ducie goes on to deal with Agriculture in the School, a Floral Emblem for Saskatchewan and Co-operation. "Co-operation is like agriculture—a way of life. It is a voluntary movement, democratic, because beginning with the people, coming from below and working up. It is a way out, gradual, without disturbance, based on mutual help, and yet, bound in the end to bring power and influence."

Arts and Letters

Mrs. C. R. Webb of Meota, as convener of Arts and Letters in 1936, reported good work in compiling local histories. Two were outstanding—the history of the settlement of the Star City district in 1907, and the history of the Cannington Major district. The latter was founded by English Remittance Men who built beautiful homes similar to those they had left in the Old Country, and also laid out race courses to carry on the traditions of Ascot and Epsom, as well as those of the hunting field. Pelly Club, north of Yorkton, went a step further, for its Homemakers bought five acres of the historical site of old Fort Pelly to convert this into a Park.

The project ranking second was the encouragement of Music, mainly through the Provincial and District Festivals. Homemakers' Clubs have studied the works of great composers, getting local musicians to illustrate with selections from Chopin, Beethoven and others. Mrs. Webb recommended the study of Canadian

composers, musicians and the planning of programmes based on French and Indian Folksongs.

International Relations.

Mrs. A. L. Spencer, Springside, convener of International Relations, attended the annual meeting of the League of Nations Society in Canada as Homemakers' Club representative in May, 1936. The world has moved so swiftly since that time that much of the speaking at that conference has lost its power to encourage and justify us in hoping for world peace. However, the fact that twenty-nine clubs reported membership in the League of Nations Society was most encouraging in itself. In Swarthmore district, eleven out of eighteen clubs had a membership in the society. One definite impression Mrs. Spencer received from the meeting was that the League is only as strong as its promoters can make it. The Society needs financial support, and Remembrance Day seems a good time to organize for this. This excellent report concludes with a plea for support of the League.

Home Economics

The modern interpretation of the phrase "Home Economics" is developed in the committee report of Mrs. Clive Burke of Valparaiso, Sask.

Beginning twenty-five years ago Mrs. Burke marks the growth of Domestic Science and Household Science until now it embraces all that involves the devoting of trained minds to the solving of problems that have developed in the science of living.

"Sometimes a home is endeared to us by its very quality of remaining just the same. Is the home really the last point to show progress? The farm makes stupendous advances in machinery and the use of electricity. The trail of accomplishment in the home is not so clear. In this day of changing values perhaps this very slowness to seek change has helped to preserve the stability that has kept our homes the foundation and strength of all our development. Thorough grounding in the tried and proven is vitally essential—no less necessary is awareness of the current thought, and ability to adjust ourselves to the needs of the hour.

"The function of Home Economics therefore is to assemble and disseminate whatever may serve to promote the ideal for the home and the lives within, through mastery of data in regard to nutrition, food preparation, textiles, housing, income management, child development, parent education, family relationship."

Public Health.

Mrs. Ed. Clark of Pense made a very clear summary of the findings of our Department of Public Health in regard to diseases of the more prevalent type, and their prevention and treatment. New Canadians in particular arriving in Canada each year should

be helped to fight the various diseases with which they come in contact, and to take advantage of the facilities available for inoculation against diphtheria and scarlet fever, and vaccination against smallpox, so that their children may become healthy and happy citizens.

Homemakers' Clubs had discussed undulant fever, cattle testing for tuberculosis, some had organized to obtain municipal doctors, to provide milk for children in school hours, to erect "safety-first" signs on roads, to supply hot lunches, clothing, and even eye-glasses in case of need, besides carrying out many kindred health projects:

Legislation.

-At the date of our Silver Jubilee, Mrs. R. C. Moir of Govan had conducted the study of Legislation for the Homemakers for a period of four years. Her command of this subject, her logical and philosophical treatment of its history, her clear explanations of the necessity for law and its consequent enforcement, are evidence of the keen mind of the university graduate, trained alike in thinking and in expressing her thoughts. Her summary of past work runs thus:

"In looking for the reason and the need of law, we find that it was the result of human demand for security, first of one's person, and second, of one's possessions. These demands arose from the instinct of self-preservation, and a desire that one's children might have not only a chance to live, but also a chance for happiness and advancement.

"The Homemakers have studied the enforcement of law in the simplest court we know, that of the Justice of the Peace. Its history went far back into the beginnings of the English people, yet it has imperfections which we have a right to see corrected. Last year our study dealt with the juvenile who runs counter to our laws.

"Looking back over a quarter of a century of Homemakers' work, we see tremendous changes in our Canadian democracy. You and I became citizens instead of unrepresented residents of the Dominion. Out of this citizenship arose a different emphasis on certain subjects, such as married women's property rights, equal guardianship of children, etc. Citizenship came to us in Canada as a result of the heroism, not always lady-like, of the English suffragette and of a few brave spirits in Canada. But it also came as the result of the sacrificial work of women during the war years.

"Out of the lessons of the War came also a desire for the social welfare of the whole state. The War taught us the value of human life, even while it wasted this so terribly. Hence maternal deaths and infant mortality became nationally and not just personally important. Under-nourished bodies and starved minds do not make even good soldiers, let alone good citizens. Therefore, sub-

jects like the minimum wage, price spreads, bad housing, educational facilities and curricula became nationally important. Social Welfare became a word as important as Patriotism was before.

"Homemakers still have much work to do in co-operation with social experts in order to justify themselves as citizens. We can remain citizens of a democracy only so long as it is based on justice. Otherwise it will cease to exist."



HOMEMAKERS' CLUB EXECUTIVE OFFICERS JUNE 1936.

The complete slate of officers and conveners of committees of Saskatchewan Homemakers' Clubs at the Silver Jubilee Annual Convention, June 1936, was as follows:

<i>Honorary President</i>	Mrs. JOHN ROBERTSON, Bradwell.
<i>President</i>	Mrs. A. J. CURRIE, Govan.
<i>First Vice-President</i>	Mrs. NAOMI SINGLETON, Canwood.
<i>Second Vice-President</i>	Mrs. J. R. NEAR, Pinkham.
<i>Convention Secretary</i>	Mrs. R. J. McAUSLAN, Adanac.

Councillors

Mrs. O. P. Moen	Tompkins.
Mrs. T. H. Wright,	Richard.
Mrs. Evelyn Stenen.....	Stenen.
Mrs. C. E. Medland	Punnichy.

Conveners of Standing Committees:

<i>Arts and Letters</i>	Mrs. C. R. Webb, Meota.
<i>Agriculture</i>	Mrs. H. Ducie, Dundurn.
<i>Home and School</i>	Miss Grace Spiers, Wapella.
<i>Home Economics</i>	Mrs. C. Burke, Valparaiso.
<i>International Relations</i>	Mrs. A. L. Spencer, Springside.
<i>Legislation</i>	Mrs. R. C. Moir, Govan.
<i>Public Health</i>	Mrs. Ed. Clark, Pense.

Progress During Twenty-Five Years

VARIOUS speakers at the Silver Jubilee Convention reviewed the changes during the quarter century ending 1936 in the fields of Agriculture, Education and Legislation.

Dr. F. Hedley Auld, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for the Province, in stressing the need for crop insurance, building up reserves for the future and more carefully considered use of land according to its agricultural possibilities, asked the Homemakers to use their influence in encouraging sound agricultural production policies. A few outstanding quotations follow:

"The Homemakers' Club movement was established in Saskatchewan at the peak of our agricultural development. Production had not yet attained the peak, but the movement of a few settlers, the building of railway lines, the opening of new territory, the growth of cities, towns and villages throughout the province was a new condition, and one which we shall never again witness. It was a thrilling and an inspiring scene; a peaceful invasion of Canada's prairies by hundreds of thousands of people from all parts of North America and Europe. They came with high hopes, confident that they had located on the best land, in the best district, in the best province of the best country in the world. A few railway lines were being constructed, public buildings were being erected, the University was just being established—it was a growing time.

"The atmosphere changes from comparative stillness even in this western country to occasional tornadoes. Our agricultural production varies from abundance to scarcity and from scarcity to abundance; prices fluctuate from high to low, and back to high. There are those who dread the monotony which results from stability of conditions, and welcome variety, fluctuation, risk, but the masses of mankind seem to be content with an answer to their daily prayer: "Give us this day our daily bread." To them and to most of us the greatest need of this western country, this agricultural programme and the economic consequences, is stability.

"I am counting a great deal upon the influence of the Homemakers' Clubs in finding a solution to individual security and laying by something for the drought years. The mothers, who are the homemakers, are the ones upon whom the burden of crop failure falls most heavily. Children have to be outfitted for school, they must be fed, the men must be kept in good heart and in good condition for work, so the homemakers sacrifice themselves even more than usual under these adverse conditions. Not that I want to lay upon their shoulders the responsibility for the mistakes of the past. I believe their caution, their thrift, their foresight and their provision for the future would in most cases have been effective in averting much of the trouble, if not the disappointment, of the de-

pression period, but our eyes are to the future rather than the past, except that the past may illumine the pathway of the future."

* * *

Following up the address by Dr. Hedley Auld, dealing with the past twenty-five years in Agriculture and the lessons to be learned from the experiences of the agriculturist in that period, an address was delivered to the Homemakers on "The Story of the Origination of Rust-Resistant Wheats," by Mr. R. O. Bibbey of the University of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Bibbey told of research, extending over a period of eight years, at the Minnesota Experimental Station, at the Dominion Rust Laboratory, in our own University and at many other places. He explained that the plant breeder has to consider many desirable characteristics in selecting hybrids; rust resistance, good seed character, good milling and baking quality, high yield, resistance to other diseases, earliness, satisfactory plant height, strong straw, and good threshing character—these are some of the attributes of first-class wheat.

At least three new wheats, Thatcher, Apex and Renown, with high rust resistance have been produced. With the possibility of other new varieties in the next few years, the problem of losses from the stem rust of wheat will have been solved. Plant breeders, therefore, feel that they have made another contribution to the development of the West.

* * *

Dr. S. R. Laycock, Professor of Educational Psychology at the University of Saskatchewan, speaking on the Topic "Fitting the School to the Child," traced the changes in viewpoint regarding the nature and purpose of Education and urged that Homemakers endeavour to attain better understanding of child nature through child study groups.

Dr. Laycock maintained that school curricula should be adapted to meet the needs of children with varying degrees of ability. He claimed that "the child should be fitted for living" and "that the development of wholesome personality is the chief business of education." His special appeals to the Homemakers were:

"May I suggest that the Homemakers' Clubs resist the current tendency of the public to judge a teacher by the percentage of pupils who pass the departmental examinations, but rather that the school and teacher may be judged in their effectiveness by the extent to which they contribute to the character and personality of the child."

"Probably the most important form of adult education is parent education and to this the Homemakers' Clubs can make a great contribution."

"The public can have any kind of school it desires. Whichever kind it is to be depends in no small measure on the women of this province. May I close with a plea that the Homemakers' Clubs give a lead in the understanding of child life so that we may increasingly fit the school to the child."

* * *

Mrs. Iva Z. Conboy, LL.B., in her review of "Changes in Women's Status during the Past Twenty-five Years", dealt not only with progress in our own country but pointed out that in many countries of the world, women had attained the franchise in that period. New positions occupied by women include seats in parliament, membership on municipal councils and school boards, and judges of Juvenile Courts.

Mrs. Conboy adds: "Another very important development has been the growth of women's local, national and international organizations, by means of which they are becoming acquainted with each other, other races, other religions, and finding that all women have some purpose in common, the most pressing one now being the maintenance of world peace. Her final challenge is this:

"To attain equal status with men, women still have a major struggle ahead. Outwardly, there is the struggle for their right to work and to be economically independent, which involves the removal of all restrictions against the sex. They have a right to be occupied in any field which is of service to mankind. It will be said that they should be excluded from the army and navy. When the nature of women's function is ultimately appreciated and her goal attained, the army and navy will not exclude women—the women will exclude the army and navy. If women have no other right in the world, surely they have the right to insist that their offspring, which has been and always must be produced at so much cost to themselves, shall not be wantonly and brutally destroyed."

"And to accomplish this gigantic task women must advance in self-realization. They must take stock. They must seek to discover those attributes, both as individuals and as a sex, with which they are specially endowed, and which must be expressed if they are to fulfil their complete function in life and make their utmost contribution to the world—and they have something to give besides their biological contribution."

"Women must recognize the fact that having been the submerged sex since the dawn of history they have not yet realized their full potentialities in the few years they have been within hailing distance of equality."

"It will thus be seen that they have an inner conquest to make as well as an outer one and the sooner women appreciate this fact the sooner their goal will be reached—that goal being the right to determine their own relationships and occupations, free from the

coercion of economic pressure and the psychic dominance of the masculine mind—in short, equal status, and an equal opportunity to develop within and serve without.”

* * *

Mrs. Nellie L. McClung, as special guest-speaker, delighted all with her wit and also set each delegate thinking. Since no summary could do justice to Mrs. McClung's paper, a few quotations will probably give a better idea of the thoughts she left with us.

“Before we can speak of what we have learned, we have to make these confessions of our disillusionments. We thought machines would lift the burdens of humanity and so they did. They cast drudgery from mankind, but took away the means of livelihood. Man is faced with the fact that his own ingenuity has defeated him. He is like the man who made a clever lock for a door and shut himself out of his own house.

“This new age requires a new morality. Work kept people in the pathway of righteousness. The discipline of earning a living was heavy on us. But in this new age with its possibilities and its heartaches and disillusionment, there has to come a new compulsion, a new care for others, a new fountain of happiness in seeing the welfare of your neighbour. The boundaries of life are pushing back—a flood is rising around us.

“A new spirit is our need and an open mind. Let us learn a lesson from Russia. There, in a ruthless, un-Christian way, they have done what we have not been able to do in a Christian way; they have given hope to their people, a hope for a new day—equality of opportunity and free education. We can do it too, if we will set our hearts upon a new programme of co-operation and helpfulness.”

The Associated Country Women of the World

THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE, 1936

THE GREATEST event in the history of united rural women was staged in Washington, D.C., in June, 1936, when The Associated Country Women of the World met for their first Conference on this side of the Atlantic. Mrs. A. J. Currie of Govan, then the President of the Saskatchewan Homemakers' Clubs, was our provincial representative, and brought home excellent accounts both of what she had seen and what she had heard.

From Ontario to Maryland our representative was a worshipper of beautiful trees—the stately elms, the long stretches of evergreens, the spruces, pink balsam, and lacy hemlock interspersed with stretches of willow and poplar to Lake Superior, the symmetry of maple and beech, with white birch standing out like sentinels—what a vision to one from the dried-out Saskatchewan prairie!

Delegates were there from near and far, not the one thousand expected, almost with awe, but to the number of 7,300. The Bremen had brought most of the overseas delegates, some had travelled by car from California, Nebraska women had chartered three buses, and 400 women from Kansas and an adjoining state had chartered a private train, the first occasion on which women had done this in the history of the United States.

The personalities at the Conference never ceased to be thrilling. Mrs. Hubbard Ellis of London, England, an F.R.G.S., who had spent many years exploring in Labrador, Mrs. Laura Rose Stephen of Ottawa, a pioneer in Canadian Women's Institute work, and still busy after forty years, a gentleman from Colombo, Ceylon, who accompanied his wife on almost all occasions, Baroness Schroeder, a German woman now resident in England, Mrs. Dent of Zululand, South Africa, Mrs. Drage of Wales, a delightful and unassuming vice-president of the English W.I., and last and most important, Mrs. Alfred Watt, a Canadian woman, who is the highly honoured President of the A.C.W.W.

Mrs. Currie brought back not merely the intellectual and practical view of the Washington Conference, but her accounts of it at the following H.M.C. Convention at Saskatoon spiritualized it into a living delight.

Quotations from Mrs. Currie's presidential address at the Silver Jubilee Convention of Saskatchewan Homemakers' Clubs in June, 1936, when the visit to the United States' capital was still very recent, will, it is hoped, excite a deeper interest in the transactions of women:

"The triennial conference of the A.C.W.W. at Washington, D.C., was a very great conference, noteworthy not only numeric-

ally, but inspirationally, and my hope is that something of the delight this journey gave to me may find its way to you. We belong to a truly great organization, one with a large vision and high ideals, but too, one with a host of practical realities accomplished and with practical workable plans for the growth of social and economic betterment and for increase in international good-will among country folk.

"All delegates wore distinguishing and identifying badges. The Secretary of State, Hon. Cordell Hull, and the Secretary of Agriculture, Hon. H. A. Wallace, in their greetings, expressed admiration of the scope and influence of our organization, of our opportunities as promoters of world peace and their strong belief in the importance of rural women as a determining factor in coming civilization.

"Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, wife of the President of the United States, gave the address of the afternoon, and her charm and winning personality were quickly felt throughout the hall. Mrs. Roosevelt, herself a member of one of New-York Home Bureaus, confessed to a complete unawareness of the immensity of the Conference, but she had secretly chuckled with joy at the enterprise of women who would come so far to broaden their interests. It was women in pioneer days who had made it possible for men to conquer a new world. Leaders then, they had of necessity been individualists. Now, rural women, living near to basic things, must be leaders in a broader sense, must go further than a *desire for peace*, must have a better understanding of all countries, must learn to comprehend social, economic, educational, and recreational conditions, for all these things affect family life, which is in the last analysis the root of community life. 'History is being written here today,' she concluded.

"Mrs. Alfred Watt's response as President of the A.C.W.W. was interesting, apropos, clever, and then, as throughout the Conference, we, as fellow-Canadians, fellow-Britishers, delighted in her quick thinking, her tact, her phraseology.

"Greetings were brought in native language from Ceylon, Germany, Finland, Ireland, Kenya, Rhodesia, Latvia, The Netherlands, Palestine, Switzerland, Sweden, South Africa, Norway, etc. Fine music was rendered from time to time by Farm Women's Choruses from Indiana and Iowa.

"In the evening five minute reports were heard from societies in various parts of the world. For ten days all sessions were filled with reports and worthwhile discussions regarding home and community life. Motion pictures and skits demonstrated the work of Extension Services, all abundantly enriching life. Reports described what women are doing to raise the standard of living in their home communities, to keep young folk content on the farms, to revive crafts as a means of improving the economic status of rural

women, and as a means of creative expression, to exchange and spread constructive plans for social betterment."

"At a beautiful colorful farewell ceremony, at the Water Gate on the banks of the Potomac near the Lincoln Memorial, Mrs. Watt in a closing message said it had been proved that the country woman is an asset to a country more proportionately than any other single group. Nations should pay back some of the debt they owe her, pay fairer prices for farm products, give a fair proportion of monies for education, refrain from littering fields and roadsides, and destroying trees, flowers, and wild life, should give national services, health, transport, lighting, telephone, heating, back up the A.C.W.W. in putting over ideas of mutual help, liberty, understanding and friendship, sometimes obscured in world politics, but still the heritage and concern of peoples.

"This immense conference at Washington has tremendous significance as a milestone from which there must be no turning back, but a continued progress to still further reaching objectives, for we must remember that she who joins a Homemakers' group is not only a member of a local organization, but of an international force."

Provincial Activities

THE accompanying summary of the work of the Saskatchewan H.M.C. prepared by Miss Bertha Oxner, Director of Women's Work, was submitted by Mrs. Currie to the Washington Conference.

"Saskatchewan, the central one of Canada's three prairie provinces, sends greetings to the representatives of other lands. Since the people of this great province come from so many racial stocks we feel akin to most of you, particularly as you, like our Homemakers' Clubs are working to promote better living in the rural areas.

We have progressed in many ways since the Stockholm Conference of 1933. Then, we had 265 organizations with an approximate membership of 5400. Now, there are 332 senior clubs with 7300 as a very conservative estimate of the number of members. In addition to the senior groups, there are 8 junior clubs, the ages of their members ranging from 15 to 21.

Junior clubs are but one development of the past three years. Drought, crop failures and the depression period have restricted the country girl's opportunities. Our Homemakers' Clubs have, therefore, co-operated with the Department of Women's Work of the provincial University to plan programmes for girls. Correspondence lessons in sewing, with made-up models have been used by local leaders. Six groups used these in 1933, while 42 groups of girls and young women used the material in 1935. An advanced sewing course, conducted by local leaders trained by a University demonstrator and a Nutrition course of six lessons have been used with many other groups throughout the province. In the summer of 1933, two 10-day courses for girls were held. Local School Boards, Homemakers' District Executives and the University co-operated in the arrangements. Last summer there were eight such schools with 247 girls attending. The Homemakers provide prizes for some of the competitions at Farm Girls' Week, which is held at the University late in June, and award a \$50 scholarship annually for a student taking the Household Science degree course at the University.

In their own immediate communities, clubs have done much to promote the holding of clinics for examination of pre-school children; for dental work; for tonsil examination. Sometimes this work is done in co-operation with the Department of Public Health; at others, arrangements are made with local or outside doctors and dentists. Often the clubs contribute funds.

Field days for children, Christmas treats and donations of extra school equipment are frequently reported. Many clubs this year are raising funds to provide a piano for the local school. Oratorical contests, with competitors from a number of adjacent rural school districts, have been held at numerous points.

An interesting club activity of the past few years has been the holding of small fairs. The local club committee arranges a prize list, solicits prizes and arranges exhibits. Usually outside judges score the entries. These vary in different communities. Practically all call for entries of vegetables, butter, home cooking and sewing. Others include handicrafts, cheese, soap, school posters and school collections of flowers, children's pets.

Variations of this idea have appeared in the Hobby displays arranged by some clubs and the fairs, where different booths illustrated different projects undertaken by the club.

That Clubs are helping to encourage reading in their communities is shown by the fact that they started 15 new local libraries in 1935. Interest in the drama is growing. In the autumn of 1935, a drama competition was incorporated in a district convention programme for the first time. Not only has this district continued with the work but a number of others have followed its example.

The province is divided into twenty districts, in each of which a Convention is held during the summer. These conventions enable large numbers of club members to meet and exchange experiences and also develop local initiative and talent. The annual provincial convention, held at the University early in June, draws delegates from all parts of the province. The provincial convention themes for the past three years have been "Internationalism", "Community Building" and "Healthful Living". In each case, different speakers have dealt with special phases of the topics. This year we celebrate our Silver Jubilee, as the first provincial convention was in 1911.

In addition to their own charitable projects, clubs contribute generously to the funds of other organizations, such as the Red Cross, the Anti-Tuberculosis League, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. In 1935, a special effort was made to help the King George V Jubilee Cancer Fund.

Our relations with other organizations have been most happy. Members of the Local Council of Women in Saskatoon have contributed papers and study material that have been widely distributed. For the past three years four of our Homemakers have acted on the Executive of the Provincial Council of Women. We also appreciate our affiliations with the League of Nations Society in Canada, the Canadian Welfare Council, the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada and the Associated Countrywomen of the World.

We were glad to welcome representatives of other countries at our booth at The World's Grain Show held in Regina in the summer of 1933, and hope that in 1936 many of the Washington delegates will prolong their stay on this side of the Atlantic so that they may have the opportunity of seeing this part of Canada which has an individuality of its own."

The Homemakers and the F.W.I.C.

MRS. R. J. McAUSLAN, of Adanac, a former president of Saskatchewan Homemakers' Clubs, represented her province at the Biennial Convention of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, at Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, in June 1935, and reported briefly to her H.M.C. Annual Convention a year later.

A delightful description was given of the varying scenes as the train sped eastward, past prairie homes, Manitoba's trees and lakes and fields of grain, Ontario's rocks and hills with little clearings in its western bush. Old Ontario was different with its wide spreading trees and herds of cattle and horses knee-deep in the long grass, a sight grown almost foreign to her own province. Quebec, that province of mystery and romance, the province of contrasts, where thousands of women labour in the fields from dawn to dark, where women are still denied the vote, has none the less its infinite beauty. New Brunswick revealed lovely stretches of woodland and lake, and Nova Scotia miles of beautiful orchards and cosy homes.

"After crossing the ferry to Prince Edward Island we received a welcome as gracious as the first glimpse of the little island province. 'Surely when you have come almost across the Dominion to spend a little while with us,' said one lady, 'we should give you a sincere welcome'."

"The meetings were held in the famous Confederation Room in the Parliament Buildings, the room containing the table around which the representatives of the different provinces sat and framed the documents that united Canada into one vast Dominion. Our group consisted of about 35 delegates. The reports of standing committees were full of help and gave a clear idea of the work. It was a wonderful experience to attend meetings so full of interest and enthusiasm, and to talk with other women about the work, its difficulties, its accomplishment, its plans for the future. We felt that the Institute work must be really worth while to call forth the loyalty of over 70,000 women in our Dominion."

Mrs. McAuslan urges every Homemaker when thinking of the F.W.I.C. to remember that this is their own organization, and that it is only through the co-operation of every Province that the Federation can give all the help it is endeavouring to give. Thus each Province can contribute something to the upbuilding of our Dominion.

* * *

Canadian Home and Country

The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada are to be congratulated on finally realizing their ambition and publishing a national magazine. *Canadian Home and Country* is worthy of a

place beside the national publications of the same name in England and Scotland, and we venture to prophesy that like them this Canadian sister magazine will find an ever increasing circulation. Mrs. J. F. Price, Vancouver, who has been for so many years in charge of publicity for the F.W.I.C. is Editor-in-Chief, and is efficiently supported by Miss Hazel B. McCain, Macdonald College, Quebec, as Business Manager. The nine provincial units in our national Federation have now, in addition to their own provincial publications, a reliable first-class outlet for all their ideas, their news, and their international relationships. The Home and Country is attractive, very up-to-date, and full of stories of human interest and human progress. The Saskatchewan Homemakers wish this, their own partly-owned paper, every success.

* * *

Members of Saskatchewan Homemakers' Clubs who have held office in the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, or who have been elected Provincial representatives.

Directors who are members of the F.W.I.C. without vote:

Miss Abbie DeLury, 1919-1930.

Miss Bertha Oxner, 1930-1939.

Mrs. W. F. Cameron,
Davidson and Regina

First Recording Secretary, 1919-1922.
Provincial Representative, 1919-1922.
Convener of Legislation, 1922-1925.
Representative for Saskatchewan, 1927-1929.
President of F.W.I.C., 1929-1933.
Honorary President, 1933-1935.
Life Member of F.W.I.C., 1933.

Mrs. A. J. Chambers,
Shellbrook

Representative, 1925.
Treasurer, 1925-1929.
Corresponding Secretary, 1929-1933.

Conveners of Committees:

Legislation: Mrs. W. F. Cameron, Davidson.

Agriculture: Mrs. E. Ducie, Dundurn.

Household Economics: Mrs. T. L. Guild, Regina.

Legislation: Mrs. Gertrude S. Telford, Pelly.

Other Representatives: Members of Board of F.W.I.C.

Mrs. R. J. McAuslan, Adanac

Mrs. E. Ducie, Dundurn.

Mrs. F. Langley, Richard.

Mrs. Gertrude Telford, Pelly.

Mrs. A. J. Currie, Govan.

Mrs. J. R. Near, Pinkham.

Looking Forward

THESE GREETINGS and reports carry us past the celebration of our Silver Jubilee, and into the period of upbuilding and extending our scope of activity. Now is the time when the silver cord may be transformed into a golden chain, its fairer links shining with a more resplendent gleam, the transition glow from Retrospect to the beacon light of Prospect.



Miss Bertha Oxner

To those of you who have worked in the organization some twenty years or more the message of a comparative newcomer like myself with only six years' intimate knowledge of your doings can of necessity carry little of recollection. Rather must I express appreciation of the strong and true foundations laid by my predecessors and voice the hope that as our work together progresses that our additions to the structure may be of enduring quality and that as the years proceed a still more "stately mansion" may attract even larger numbers of Saskatchewan women.

Probably few of you realize the inward terror I felt in attending my few first Homemakers' Club meetings and conventions. Fortunately, in the friendly atmosphere of both small and large groups, terror could not long endure. Warm-hearted greetings and ready sympathy were proffered me everywhere and now as I review these recent years, I feel that I am immeasurably richer because of all the good and true friends I have throughout the province.

Coming among you as a comparative stranger to all, I felt that I must get to know you personally. Hence, my first year's activities included visits to some 50 clubs. I hoped that in succeeding years I might visit other areas until I had been in every section of the province. Unfortunately, this goal has not been realized. The lean years came, in which so many readjustments had to be made. They have been hard years, but they have been wonderful years as well, for they have been illuminated by high courage and by vision that has never faltered. I have been so proud of the way

in which clubs have not only carried on, but have developed new interests among their members and in their communities.

Need I recall those first bitter years of drouth and low prices, when the trek to the northern part of the province began? As re-establishment proceeded, memories of those happy gatherings in former communities inspired the recent pioneers to organize Homemakers' Clubs which have been doing much to build a sound community life. Our clubs in the North Country are a real testimony to the spirit that prevails throughout the organization.

When the Lieutenant-Governor's Emergency Fund was expended on materials to be made into clothing, Homemakers volunteered ready and efficient services. The abundant gardens of members in the northern areas have helped to provide a more varied and wholesome diet for the families of less favoured members. Generous contributions from other provinces have strengthened the ties between other provinces and ourselves.

Our horizon widens as our club life grows. It has been good to see and hear of the International Peace Garden which links us in such beautiful symbolism with the rest of Canada and with the women of the United States. Our affiliation with the Associated Countrywomen of the World has opened the door still wider, while the reports given by Mrs. McAuslan, Mrs. Spencer and Mrs. Currie have done much to enliven and enrich the more expansive view before us.

As we look forward to the future, we must ask ourselves what is the task that lies ahead. Even now, there are developments that point the way. The activity of some of our clubs in establishing community parks and playgrounds shows that these groups feel the need for planned recreation. Enforced and unwelcome leisure has been the lot of many of our people. Even with favourable crop and business conditions, modern inventions will accomplish all needed work in even shorter periods of time. Shall we allow our young people to spend their time in futile self-pity or shall we help them to find avenues for activity that will stimulate their spiritual and mental growth? Knowing the Homemakers, I feel quite sure of the answer.

The help given in arranging the 10-day Summer Courses for rural girls, the sacrifices made to enable girls to attend our Farm Girls' Week and the ready response to the request for leaders in our new venture of Homecraft Clubs all indicate that Homemakers will accept the challenge.

May I make that challenge my parting word—that we promote every movement designed to develop a wholesome womanhood, so that as our own powers falter we may be happy in the assurance that those who take our places will be well equipped to meet the demands imposed by an ever expanding world.

BERTHA G. OXNER.

Since Our Jubilee Convention

THREE YEARS have passed since Saskatchewan Homemakers' Clubs celebrated their Silver Jubilee. Drought and grasshoppers and low prices are still with us. Have we still the courage and the vision that were so evident in the group that gathered in June, 1936, to celebrate twenty-five years of achievement? Have we come any nearer to attaining any of the goals we set ourselves at that time? A brief summary of Homemakers' work during that three year interval will help to answer these questions.

In the early spring of 1936, Homemakers were asked to help in starting Homecraft Clubs for rural girls. Close students of rural society have discovered there is one group that has been long overlooked. This is the group in their older teens and early twenties. They have outgrown the clubs and activities that appeal to the younger, adolescent and are not quite ready to join the groups of older persons. It was to meet the needs and interests of this group that the Homecraft Club projects were planned, and Homemakers' Club members were asked to assume additional responsibilities in teaching the girls' groups and in supervising their meetings. Many hours have been given over to attendance at leaders' conferences; to learning new types of work that might in turn be taught to the girls; in helping with plans for local and district achievement days. The results have justified the time and thought expended. All over the province these groups of eager young women are learning to appreciate good workmanship, are taking pride in making useful and attractive products for their homes and are experiencing the deep delight that comes from working and playing with others. Of the 190 Homecraft clubs now functioning in the province 110 are under the guidance of Homemakers' Clubs.

Another forward movement in the education of our young women has been made possible through the Dominion-Provincial Youth Training Programme. Homemakers were honoured when Mrs. A. J. Currie, then our provincial president, was appointed one of the five members of the Women's Advisory Committee to the National Employment Committee. As the only rural woman on the committee, Mrs. Currie was able to render a unique contribution. After the committee had submitted its reports, Mrs. Currie was asked to continue as Federal adviser on girls' projects in Saskatchewan, and still acts in that capacity.

The work for rural girls which has been directed by the Department of Women's Work of the University of Saskatchewan, has been planned to carry out the recommendations of the Women's Advisory Committee. During the two years the work has been progressing, more than 5000 rural girls have had the benefit of additional training, this training varying in length from five days to five months. Homemakers' Clubs have played a major part in

the promotion of this programme, particularly in making local arrangements for classes.

The education of the Homemaker herself has received increasing emphasis during the three years since our Jubilee. In the autumn of 1936, when the first parcels of books for reading courses were sent out from the University, Homemakers' Clubs received them enthusiastically, and many hours were spent in reading and discussion. Some of the clubs have used a new reading course every year.

The first holiday school for Homemakers was held at the Swift Current Experimental Farm in the summer of 1938. Throughout the week, members of the Farm staff gave lessons in poultry and gardening while instructors from the Department of Women's Work of the University taught Home Economics subjects and directed the activities of recreation periods.

When through President Thomson's initiative, a more extensive programme of Adult Education was decided upon, the Homemakers' Clubs were ready to help. Mrs. J. R. Near, provincial president, and Mrs. T. H. Wright, another member of the Advisory Council, represented the clubs at a conference of the four Western provinces held at the University in March, 1938. As a provincial organization we are now affiliated with the Canadian Association of Adult Education. In every part of the province, Homemakers are organizing or taking part in Study Groups where vital questions of the day are being discussed.

In our own club work subjects that have been specially studied are: The Borstal System, Socialization of Medical Services, The Use of Natural Resources in the Home, Rural Sanitation and The Larger Unit of School Administration.

When the Martin Commission, appointed by the Department of Education to study the educational system of the province, held its sittings in Saskatoon, the provincial director of the clubs was asked to speak on behalf of the Homemakers. This is but one indication of the recognition that is being given to our ever-growing provincial organization.

In 1936, through the generosity of the T. Eaton Co. of Winnipeg, the first provincial essay competition among Clubs was arranged. Keener interest is being shown each year in these competitions, not only in the writing of essays, but in the reading and discussion of the prize winning essays at club meetings. Inevitably the ideas presented on Improvement in Community Life, Creation of Beauty in the Community, Methods of Adapting our School System to meet present day needs will have far reaching results in the days to come.

The appointment of Baron Tweedsmuir as Governor-General of Canada brought the Homemakers and affiliated groups a good

friend and generous benefactor in the person of Her Excellency, the Lady Tweedsmuir. Ever since her arrival in Canada, she has shown a keen interest in our work and has welcomed our reports. Her establishment of the Lady Tweedsmuir prairie libraries has benefitted many rural communities. Homemakers' Clubs to the number of 81 have been happy to receive parcels of books and to arrange for their circulation in their own communities and later to exchange them with other groups.

Our good friend Dr. Murray has retired from the presidency of the University, but as he and Mrs. Murray are still living in Saskatoon, and as his successor, Dr. Thomson, and his wife are showing a similar sympathetic interest in our work, we feel that we have merely added to our group of friends.

Two of the officers listed in the 1936 Executive on page 34 have passed to "The Great Beyond". We miss their presence but the memory of their contributions to our organization will live through many years.

As we review the situation, we feel that with the additional educational opportunities offered and with the increasing appreciation of the value of further training for the young folks and those not quite so young, our communities should continue to move towards the ideal which we constantly have in mind.

In Memoriam



MRS. JOHN ROBERTSON, *Bradwell*
Honorary President, Saskatchewan Homemakers' Clubs

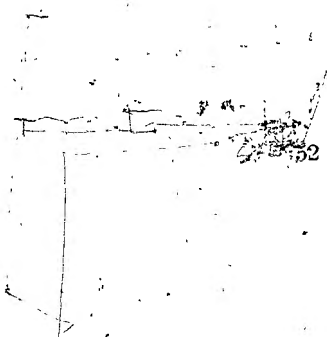
IT IS WITH sincere regret that the Homemakers record the passing of one of their most prominent members, Mrs. John Robertson of Bradwell. Holding the most honoured position on the Board as Honorary President, Mrs. Robertson was well known to all who year after year attend the annual convention. She possessed a remarkable personality, strong, pervading, encouraging, and upright, and at the same time a natural brightness and gaiety that never failed.

Mrs. Robertson came from a noted Scottish family, her father, F. W. Clark, being Sheriff-Principal of Lanark, a position very similar to that of a Judge of the Appeal Court in this country.

Educated liberally, she passed her earlier years in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and on the famous Island of Ulva off the west coast of Scotland. On her marriage she accompanied her husband to India, where Mr. Robertson was at that time an indigo planter. Having returned to Scotland with their three children in 1892, they finally moved to Canada in 1903, homesteading where the village of Bradwell now stands.

Mrs. Robertson was a leading spirit, and contributed richly in inspiration and in service to her community, and to our own clubs in her district. Our deep sympathy goes out to her sons and their families, so recently bereaved, but we know that the memories of her long, active and happy life must be a consolation and a source of pride to them. At the great age of eighty-three years Mrs. Robertson was gathered in like a sheaf of corn, fully ripe, and who can grieve that she has now entered into her rest?

June, 1939.

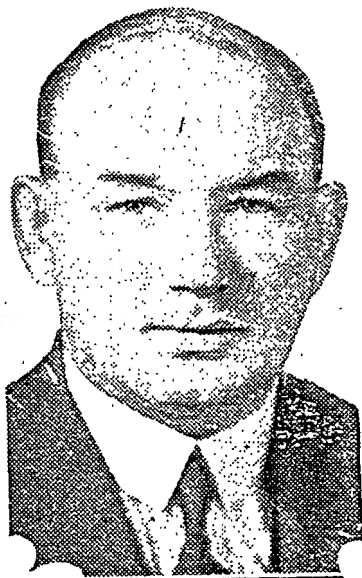


A Message from the University's New President

WHEN OUR University of Saskatchewan was founded, it was intended that it should become a spiritual home for every movement that affects the welfare of our people. The gates of the University should be not only a doorway of hope for ambitious and gifted youth, but also the point of departure for highways of culture that lead into every prairie community. Our ideals have been both high and broad—high in our attainments of academic excellence, broad in our sympathetic view of human life.

We are glad and proud of our close association with the Homemakers. For the home is the most permanent and important of all social institutions. Here at the University, we aim not only at professional and academic education, but also at the development of character. But, we can only build on a foundation already laid. Similarly throughout our province, such lively questions as the quality of crops, the price of wheat, and improved agriculture are not ends in themselves. They have meaning only in terms of human welfare. Our social structure would be incomplete without a plan for the culture of the home.

The record of the Homemakers is splendid. Their leaders and members can congratulate themselves on their achievements. But surely, "the best is yet to be". We are passing into a new phase of western life. The old, excited days of sudden fortune have departed, but we must not mourn over them. A new way of life, more stable and permanent, will appear to take the place of the old expansive times. The Homemakers will have a share in these new achievements. All the patient endurance and splendid hopes of the pioneer women will be treasured up in the moral economy of the world and will yet bear a harvest that will astonish us in noble living. We can have no finer ambition for Saskatchewan than that it should be a land of lovely homes.



Dr. J. S. Thomson

JAMES S. THOMSON, *President,*
University of Saskatchewan.

Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth

*Her Majesty has long taken a keen interest in the Women's
Institutes of Great Britain.*

THIS BOOKLET is going to press under circumstances unparalleled in the history of Women's Work in Canada, for on Wednesday, 17th May, 1939, Their Most Gracious Majesties, King George VI, and Queen Elizabeth landed at the ancient city of Quebec to visit their Dominion of Canada. In a day or two the prairies of Saskatchewan will crowd to welcome their Sovereign and His Queen.

For the first time in history a reigning Sovereign has set foot on Canadian soil, and the joy and pride in this auspicious visit, could not be expressed by more heartfelt ovations of welcome.

The Queen is very specially in the thoughts of all Homemakers at this time, for she is an example not only as a Royal Queen but also as a devoted wife and mother. To leave behind her for our sake those two lovely little girls, the Princess Elizabeth, and the Princess Margaret Rose, is difficult, even for a Queen, but we feel that the touching words of the Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Honourable W. L. MacKenzie King, when on the arrival of Their Majesties at Quebec, he told of the sincere regard of all Canadians for "those cherished Children of the Empire," would carry the assurance that the little Princesses were a precious charge, safe at all times in the British Empire.

The Homemakers' Clubs of Saskatchewan add their welcome to the acclamations of rejoicing crowds, and wish for Their Majesties and the Princesses every joy and blessing.

May 22, 1939.



GOD SAVE THE KING